

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 11, 2009

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State Board of Education Monthly Summary – February

Audience: All

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. The reports are posted two weeks after a Board meeting and are made available for a six-month period of time. View the most recent report at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports.

Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us.

Corrected Link: Grant Opportunity - Indoor Air Quality

Audience: Principals, Business Managers, Facility Directors

The Vermont Department of Health is accepting grant proposals from supervisory unions and school districts to promote improved air quality and environmental health in school buildings. The grant application can be found at <http://www.healthvermont.gov/enviro/envision.aspx> and questions should be directed to Amanda Lascale at alascal@vdh.state.vt.us.

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, school construction consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us.

Statewide Teacher Diversity Initiative

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Other Administrators

In a new partnership between the Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship Program and the Vermont Department of Education, the VTDSP Executive Director is also now working as the Statewide Teacher Diversity Coordinator. In the year ahead, we are looking for school districts or supervisory unions for which teacher diversity is already identified as a priority, with an interest in collaboratively establishing procedures by which diverse applicants can be identified and connected with corresponding hiring teams more effectively, and subsequently replicate these successes statewide. The initiative is already working with several Chittenden county area districts, but is very eager to create relationships with other districts, particularly in the southern part of the state.

For more information: <http://www.vtdsp.org/what-we-do/statewide-teacher-diversity-coordination>

Contact: Jim Woodard, Statewide Diversity Coordinator, at (802) 540-1021 or info@vtdsp.org.

VTDSP Resumes Operation

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counselors

Following a yearlong hiatus, the Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship Program (VTDSP) has resumed operation and is looking for new applicants. The program, formally housed in the Waterbury offices of the Vermont State Colleges, has been relocated to Burlington and now rents space in the Burlington School District's administrative office. The VTDSP is a non-profit loan forgiveness program that supports students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds who want to enter the teaching profession. VTDSP scholars may earn up to \$4,000 in loan forgiveness for each year they teach in a public school, with a maximum of \$12,000 of assistance. Applications for the spring selection round will be accepted through Friday, April 3rd. For more information: <http://www.vtdsp.org>

Contact: Jim Woodard, Executive Director, at (802) 540-1021 or info@vtdsp.org.

From UVM:

Vermont Reads Institute Announces Project Application Deadlines

In partnership with the Vermont Department of Education The Vermont Reads Institute at UVM announces the following projects:

- Literacy Leadership Initiative (LLI) --Grades K-12, project-based, and team based
- Bridging Project --Grades 3-6

The Literacy Leadership Initiative develops individual and school wide literacy expertise. School personnel work intensively with a VRI consultant, benefiting from the **one-on-one situated professional development** this project offers. The project also offers opportunities to network with others in similar roles. For more information and to download an application, please go to <http://www.vriuvvm.org/lii.php>. Applications are due on March 15, 2009.

The Bridging Project improves literacy achievement in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency across the upper elementary grades by working intensively with teachers, literacy leaders, and administrators. Participation in this school-based reading-improvement project, focused on grades 3-6, requires a commitment of at least three years. Schools accepted for The Bridging Project work in collaboration with VRI literacy experts and professionals at the University of Vermont through grants from the Vermont Department of Education. Most of the cost of this project is subsidized; participating schools pay a fee. For more information please go to http://www.vriuvvm.org/bridging_project.php. The application deadline is April 15, 2009.

For additional information, please contact Mary Grace, Director of VRI at UVM, at (802) 828-0520 or mkgrace@uvm.edu.

From the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative:

Teaching All Secondary Students (TASS) First Annual Secondary Transformation Conference Audience: High School Educators and Administrators

Dr. G. Christian Jernstedt; "How Research on the Brain and Teaching & Learning Relates to Secondary Transformation". Dr. Jernstedt has made a number of presentations at the Vermont August Leadership Conference in the past, as well as at the 2006 TASS Summer Institute. As a result, many of Vermont's administrators have heard his remarkable presentation of how current research on the brain, teaching and learning is changing how we think about instruction, curriculum, assessment, schedules and the school's structure itself. With our President calling for a new look at schools, and so many schools developing transformation plans, the VT Higher Ed Collaborative is providing an opportunity this summer for administrators to bring a team of teachers to hear the latest research on how the brain learns and to discuss its implications on planning for school change, instruction, and professional development, in other words, how to make your secondary school a success for all students.

Dates: June 24, 25, 26; Place: Stowe/Flake Conference Center; Application information and rates to follow soon. Check <http://www.vthec.org> soon for details.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.